



Lewis County

September 2020

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DEPT. OF LABOR

Workforce Trends

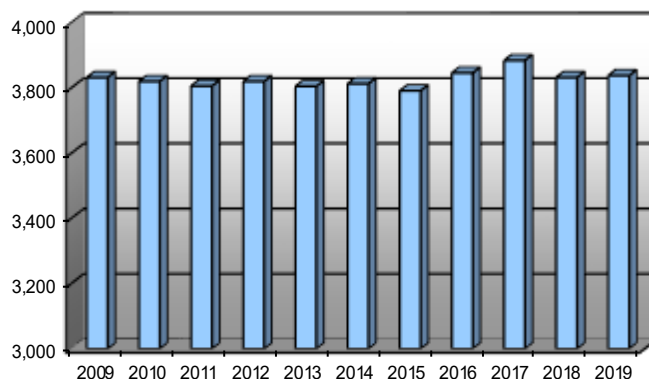
Population

In 2019, Lewis County's population was 3,838—basically the same as 10 years earlier. In the same period the U.S. population grew 7 percent and Idaho's population grew 49 percent.

Declining job opportunities in natural resource-based industries caused some young families to move out over the last 20 years. This exodus was partially offset by the influx of retirees looking for rural charm, safety, scenic beauty, and hunting and fishing opportunities. As a result, the county skews older than most counties.

The 2019 populations of the county's incorporated cities were 1,244 in Kamiah, 489 in Craigmont, 458 in Nezperce, 443 in Winchester, and 64 in Reubens.

Population



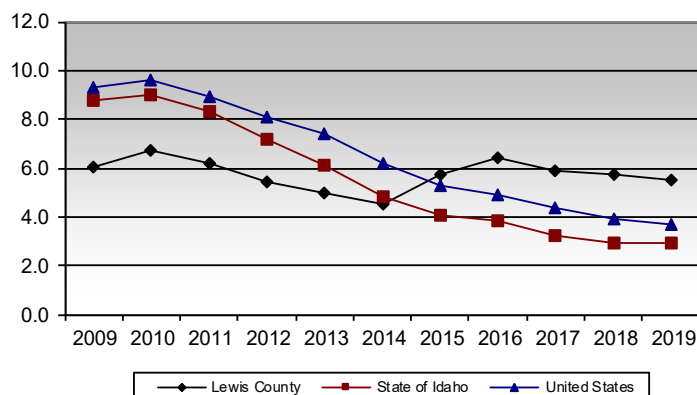
Labor Force & Employment

Lewis County remains heavily dependent on agriculture and forest products. Farm income is a major factor in the spending power of county residents. High prices for wheat, cattle and other commodities boosted the local economy a few years ago, but in the couple of years lower prices reduced farm incomes and therefore spending.

Over time the forest products industry has lost jobs, but it remains a major source of employment in several communities. In 2016, the 65-employee Blue North Forest Products mill in Kamiah closed. Today, 160 people work at sawmills and another 80 work as loggers..

About 50 people work for other manufacturers. The largest is Hillco Technologies, a Nezperce company making equipment to keep farm combines level.

Unemployment Rates



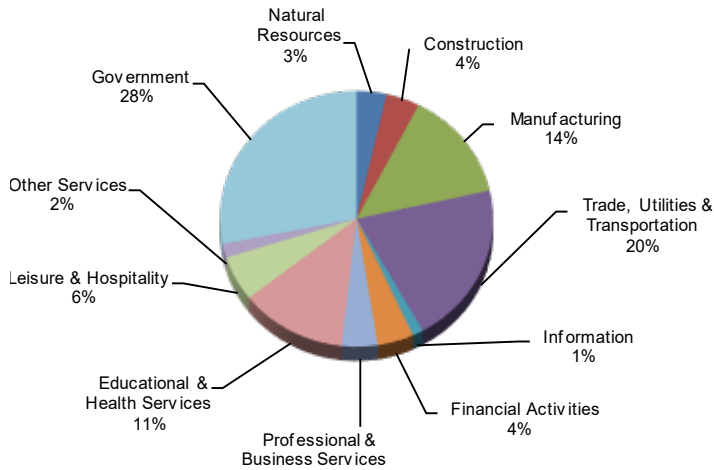
Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	1,665	1,661
Total Employment	1,566	1,564
Unemployed	99	97
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.9	5.8
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

Three years ago, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests opened its headquarters in Kamiah.

Tourism is small but has grown over the past 20 years,

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	1,779	1,571	1,554	1,597	1,612	1,594	1,592	1,629	1,614	1,620	1,648
Unemployment	108	105	97	86	81	72	90	104	95	92	90
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.1	6.7	6.2	5.4	5.0	4.5	5.7	6.4	5.9	5.7	5.5
Employment	1,671	1,466	1,457	1,511	1,531	1,522	1,502	1,525	1,519	1,528	1,558

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Economic Development

Ida-Lew Economic Development Council is a non-profit organization recruiting new businesses, assisting existing businesses, promoting infrastructure investment to sustain long-term economic growth and strengthening and diversifying the economies of Lewis and Idaho counties.

The Nez Perce Tribe also plays a major role in economic and community development in parts of Lewis, Clearwater and Nez Perce counties.

Major Employers

Cloningers Harvest Foods (grocery)
Flying B Ranch (tourism)
Highland Joint School District 305
Hillco Technologies (farm equip. manufacturer)
It'se-Ye-Casino (Nez Perce Tribe)
Kamiah Joint School District 304
Kamiah Mill
Lewis County
Nezperce Joint School District 302
U.S. Forest Service

North Central Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$13.78	\$19.57
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	\$14.82	\$19.52
Carpenters	\$15.70	\$24.76
Cashiers	\$9.11	\$10.89
Construction Laborers	\$12.22	\$16.24
Cooks, Restaurant	\$10.44	\$12.38
Farmworkers and Laborers, - Crop	\$8.20	\$11.73
Farmworkers, Farm, & Ranch Animals	\$9.15	\$14.48
Janitors & Cleaners	\$10.27	\$13.50
Registered Nurses	\$23.86	\$33.02
Retail Salespersons	\$9.48	\$13.45
Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	\$12.40	\$16.30
Teachers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$16.75	\$27.01
Teachers, Secondary	\$36,713	\$49,451

*Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at lmi.idaho.gov.

** Northern Idaho wages

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	1,362	\$24,464	1,644	\$32,067	1,699	\$32,852
Agriculture	71	\$29,162	137	\$45,002	124	\$44,948
Mining	**	**	**	**	**	**
Construction	35	\$25,331	59	\$27,203	65	\$37,882
Manufacturing	152	\$27,387	223	\$37,147	228	\$37,658
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	347	\$23,611	319	\$31,053	335	\$31,029
Information	**	**	14	\$34,291	21	\$30,146
Financial Activities	45	\$28,562	66	\$53,744	70	\$52,192
Professional and Business Services	**	**	**	**	**	**
Educational and Health Services	143	\$18,761	184	\$19,577	207	\$20,546
Leisure and Hospitality	83	\$9,922	95	\$9,948	93	\$11,106
Other Services	11	\$13,169	25	\$13,223	27	\$14,099
Government	449	\$27,297	449	\$33,660	458	\$35,154

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Lewis County	\$37,998	\$43,865	\$45,889	\$45,712	\$47,575	\$44,531	\$47,187	\$44,733	\$43,517	\$47,267
State of Idaho	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
United States	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis

IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BRAD LITTLE, GOVERNOR
JANI REVIER, DIRECTOR

This county is served by the office listed below:
Idaho Department of Labor
Grangeville Area Mobile Office
Ph: (208) 799-5000 ext. 3789 or 4311

labor.idaho.gov

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